

Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners (Comprehensive List)

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values.

Year	Author/Illustrator	Title, Call Number & Brief Description
2017	Lewis, John	March: Book Three (Author) Interlibrary Loan Through relentless direct action, SNCC continues to force the nation to confront its own blatant injustice, but for every step forward, the danger grows more intense: Jim Crow strikes back through legal tricks, intimidation, violence, and death. This book is about the Civil Rights Movement.
2017	Steptoe, Javaka	Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocked to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art work had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City. Now, award-winning illustrator Javaka Steptoe's vivid text and bold artwork echoing Basquiat's own introduce young readers to the powerful message and art doesn't always have to be neat or cleanand definitely not inside the linesto be beautiful.
2016	Williams-Garcia, Rita	Gone Crazy in Alabama (Author) J WILLIAMSGARCIA Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother, Big Ma, and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years.
2016	Collier, Bryan	Trombone Shorty (Illustrator) J 92 ANDREWS Hailing from the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band by age six, and today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest.
2015	Woodson, Jacqueline	Brown Girl Dreaming (Author) YA F WOODSON The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.
2015	Myers, Christopher	Firebird (Illustrator) E COPELAND American Ballet Theater soloist Misty Copeland encourages a young ballet student, with brown skin like her own, by telling her that she, too, had to learn basic steps and how to be graceful when she was starting out, and that some day, with practice and dedication, the little girl will



		become a firebird, too. Includes author's note about dancers who led her to find her voice.
2014	Williams-Garcia, Rita	P.S. Be Eleven (Author) J WILLIAMSGARCIA 11-year-old Brooklyn girl Delphine feels overwhelmed with worries and responsibilities. She's just started sixth grade and is self-conscious about being the tallest girl in the class, and nervous about her first school dance. She's supposed to be watching her sisters, but Fern and Vonetta are hard to control.
2014	Collier, Bryan	Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me (Illustrator) E BEATY A boy wakes up one morning to find his father gone. At first, he feels lost. But his father has left him a letter filled with advice to guide him through the times he cannot be there.
2013	Pinkney, Andrea Davis	Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America (Author) J 973 PIN Presents the stories of ten African-American men from different eras in American history, organized chronologically to provide a scope from slavery to the modern day.
2013	Collier, Bryan	I, Too, Am America (Illustrator) University Holdings Presents the popular poem by one of the central figures in the Harlem Renaissance, highlighting the courage and dignity of the African American Pullman porters in the early twentieth century.
2012	Nelson, Kadir	Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans (Author) J 973 NEL A simple introduction to African-American history, from Revolutionaryera slavery up to the election of President Obama.
2012	Evans, Shane W.	University Holdings A family silently crawls along the ground. They run barefoot through unlit woods, sleep beneath bushes, take shelter in a kind stranger's home. Where are they heading? They are heading for Freedom by way of the Underground Railroad.
2011	Williams-Garcia, Rita	One Crazy Summer (Author) J WILLIAMSGARCIA In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven- year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.
2011	Collier, Bryan	Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave (Illustrator) J 92 DAVE Dave was an extraordinary artist, poet, and potter living in South Carolina in the 1800s. He combined his superb artistry with deeply observant poetry, carved onto his pots, transcending the limitations he faced as a slave. In this inspiring and lyrical portrayal, National Book Award nominee Laban Carrick Hill's elegantly simple text and award-



		winning artist Bryan Collier's resplendent, earth-toned illustrations tell Dave's story, a story rich in history, hope, and long-lasting beauty.
2010	Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux	Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves (Author) J 92 REEVES This biography profiles the life of Bass Reeves, a former slave who was recruited as a deputy United States Marshal in the area that was to become Oklahoma.
2010	Smith Jr., Charles R.	My People (Illustrator) E HUGHES Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people has been cherished for generations. Now, acclaimed photographer Smith interprets this beloved poem in vivid sepia photographs that capture the glory, the beauty, and the soul of being a black American today.
2009	Nelson, Kadir	We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball (Author) J 796.357 NEL Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Illustrations from oil paintings by artist Kadir Nelson.
2009	Cooper, Floyd	The Blacker the Berry (Illustrator) University Holdings A collection of poems, including "Golden Goodness," "Cranberry Red," and "Biscuit Brown," celebrating individuality and Afro-American identity.
2008	Curtis, Christopher Paul	Elijah of Buxton (Author) J CURTIS In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.
2008	Bryan, Ashley	Let It Shine (Illustrator) J 782.42 LET This little light of mine Oh, when the saints go marching in He's got the whole world in His hands.
2007	Draper, Sharon	Copper Sun (Author) YA F DRAPER Copper Sun is the epic story of a young girl torn from her African village, sold into slavery, and stripped of everything she has ever known—except hope.
2007	Nelson, Kadir	Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom (Illustrator) J 92 TUBMAN Describes Tubman's spiritual journey as she hears the voice of God guiding her north to freedom on that very first trip to escape slavery. Tubman would make nineteen subsequent trips back south, never being caught, but none as profound as this first one.
2006	Lester, Julius	Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue (Author) University Holdings Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts,



		as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.
2006	Collier, Bryan	Rosa (Illustrator) J 92 PARKS She had not sought this moment but she was ready for it. When the policeman bent down to ask "Auntie, are you going to move?" all the strength of all the people through all those many years joined in her. She said, "No."
2005	Morrison, Toni	Remember: The Journey to School Integration (Author) University Holdings Toni Morrison has collected a treasure chest of archival photographs that depict the historical events surrounding school desegregation. These unforgettable images serve as the inspiration for Ms. Morrison's texta fictional account of the dialogue and emotions of the children who lived during the era of "separate but equal" schooling in 1954.
2005	Nelson, Kadir	Ellington Was Not a Street (Illustrator) J 811 SHA In this reflective poetic tribute, the author remembers growing up when many of the great figures in African-American history gathered in her family home to talk and share ideas and even sing.
2004	Johnson, Angela	The First Part Last (Author) YA F JOHNSON Bobby is your classic urban teenaged boy impulsive, eager, restless. On his sixteenth birthday he gets some news from his girlfriend, Nia, that changes his life forever. She's pregnant. Bobby's going to be a father. Suddenly things like school and house parties and hanging with friends no longer seem important as they're replaced by visits to Nia's obstetrician and a social worker who says that the only way for Nia and Bobby to lead a normal life is to put their baby up for adoption.
2004	Bryan, Ashley	Beautiful Blackbird (Illustrator) E BRYAN In a story of the Ila people, the colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew."
2003	Grimes, Nikki	Bronx Masquerade (Author) YA F GRIMES While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.
2003	Lewis, E.B.	Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman (Illustrator) J 92 COLEMAN A biography of the woman who became the first licensed Afro-American pilot.
2002	Taylor, Mildred	The Land (Author) YA F TAYLOR After the Civil War Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own.



2002	Pinkney, Jerry	Goin' Someplace Special (Illustrator) E MCKISSACK In segregated 1950s Nashville, a young African American girl braves a series of indignities and obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library.
2001	Woodson, Jacqueline	Miracle's Boys (Author) YA F WOODSON Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.
2001	Collier, Bryan	Uptown (Illustrator) E COLLIER A tour of the sights of Harlem, including the Metro-North Train, brownstones, shopping on 125th Street, a barber shop, summer basketball, the Boy's Choir, and sunset over the Harlem River.
2000	Curtis, Christopher Paul	Bud, Not Buddy (Author) J CURTIS Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his fatherthe renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
2000	Pinkney, Brian	In the Time of the Drums (Illustrator) E SIEGELSON Mentu, an American-born slave boy, watches his beloved grandmother, Twi, lead the insurrection at Teakettle Creek of Ibo people arriving from Africa on a slave ship.
1999	Johnson, Angela	Heaven (Author) YA F JOHNSON Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.
1999	Wood, Michele	I See the Rhythm (Illustrator) University Holdings Chronicles and captures poetically the history, mood, and movement of African American music.
1998	Draper, Sharon	Forged by Fire (Author) University Holdings Teenage Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.
1998	Steptoe, Javaka	In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers (Illustrator) J 811 IND A collection of poems celebrating African-American fathers.
1997	Myers, Walter Dean	Slam (Author) University Holdings Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.
1997	Pinkney, Jerry	Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman (Illustrator)



		J 92 TUBMAN Young Harriet Tubman, whose childhood name was Minty, dreams of escaping slavery on the Brodas plantation in the late 1820s.
1996	Hamilton, Virginia	Her Stories (Author) J 398.2 HAM In the tradition of Hamilton's The People Could Fly and In the Beginning, a dramatic new collection of 25 compelling tales from the female African American storytelling tradition. Each story focuses on the role of women-both real and fantasticand their particular strengths, joys and sorrows.
1996	Feelings, Tom	The Middle Passage: White Ships Black Cargo (Illustrator) 759 FEE Alex Haley's Roots awakened many Americans to the cruelty of slavery. The Middle Passage focuses attention on the torturous journey which brought slaves from Africa to the Americas, allowing readers to bear witness to the sufferings of an entire people.
1995	McKissack, Patricia & Fredrick	Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters (Author) J 394.266 MCK Describes the customs, recipes, poems, and songs used to celebrate Christmas in the big plantation houses and in the slave quarters just before the Civil War.
1995	Ransome, James	The Creation (Illustrator) J 811 JOH A poem based on the story of creation from the first book of the Bible.
1994	Johnson, Angela	Toning the Sweep (Author) University Holdings On a visit to her grandmother Ola, who is dying of cancer in her house in the desert, fourteen-year-old Emmie hears many stories about the past and her family history and comes to a better understanding of relatives both dead and living.
1994	Feelings, Tom	Soul Looks Back in Wonder (Illustrator) University Holdings Artwork and poems by such writers as Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and Askia Toure portray the creativity, strength, and beauty of their African American heritage.
1993	McKissack, Patricia	The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural (Author) J MCKISSACK A collection of ghost stories with African American themes, designed to be told during the Dark Thirtythe half hour before sunsetwhen ghosts seem all too believable.
1993	Wilson, Kathleen Atkins	The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth (Illustrator) University Holdings Retells the Yoruba creation myth in which the deity Obatala descends from the sky to create the world.
1992	Myers, Walter Dean	Now is Your Time: The African American Struggle for Freedom (Author) University Holdings A history of the African-American struggle for freedom and equality, beginning with the capture of Africans in 1619, continuing through the American Revolution, the Civil War, and into contemporary times.
1992	Ringgold, Faith	Tar Beach (Illustrator)



		University Holdings A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name.
1991	Taylor, Mildred D.	The Road to Memphis (Author) Interlibrary Loan Cassie recounts harrowing events during late 1941. An engrossing picture of fine young people endeavoring to find the right way in a world that persistently wrongs them.
1991	Dillon, Leo & Diane	Aida (Illustrator) University Holdings Retells the story of Verdi's opera in which the love of the enslaved Ethiopian princess for an Egyptian general brings tragedy to all involved.
1990	McKissack, Patricia & Fredrick	A Long Hard Journey: The Story of the Pullman Porter (Author) University Holdings A chronicle of the first black-controlled union, made up of Pullman porters, who after years of unfair labor practices staged a battle against a corporate giant resulting in a "David and Goliath" ending.
1990	Gilchrist, Jan Spivey	Nathaniel Talking (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan In brief poems, a nine-year-old boy shares his views on his mother's death, knowledge, friends, school, his father, and the future.
1989	Myers, Walter Dean	Fallen Angels (Author) University Holdings Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.
1989	Pinkney, Jerry	Mirandy and Brother Wind (Illustrator) E MCKISSACK To win first prize in the Junior Cakewalk, Mirandy tries to capture the wind for her partner.
1988	Taylor, Mildred L.	The Friendship (Author) University Holdings Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.
1988	Steptoe, John	Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale (Illustrator) E STEPTOE Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.
1987	Walter, Mildred Pitts Walter	Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World (Author) University Holdings Suffering in a family full of females, ten-year-old Justin feels that cleaning and keeping house are women's work until he spends time on his beloved grandfather's ranch.
1987	Pinkney, Jerry	Half a Moon and One Whole Star (Illustrator) University Holdings The summer night is full of wonderful sounds and scents as Susan falls asleep.
1986	Hamilton, Virginia	The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales (Author)



		J 398.2 HAM Retold Afro-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, born of the sorrow of the slaves, but passed on in hope.
1986	Pinkney, Jerry	The Patchwork Quilt (Illustrator) University Holdings Using scraps cut from the family's old clothing, Tanya helps her grandmother and mother make a beautiful quilt that tells the story of her family's life.
1985	Myers, Walter Dean	Motown and Didi (Author) University Holdings Motown and Didi, two teenage loners in Harlem, become allies in a fight against Touchy, the drug dealer whose dope is destroying Didi's brother, and find themselves falling in love with each other.
1984	Clifton, Lucille	Everett Anderson's Goodbye (Author) University Holdings Everett Anderson has a difficult time coming to terms with his grief after his father dies.
1984	Cummings, Pat	My Mama Needs Me (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan Jason wants to help, but isn't sure that his mother needs him at all after she brings home a new baby from the hospital.
1983	Hamilton, Virginia	Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush (Author) University Holdings Fourteen-year-old Tree, resentful of her working mother who leaves her in charge of a retarded brother, encounters the ghost of her dead uncle and comes to a deeper understanding of her family's problems.
1983	Magubane, Peter	Black Child (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan Takes a look at the social conditions for children in Africa.
1982	Taylor, Mildred D.	Let the Circle Be Unbroken (Author) University Holdings Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.
1982	Steptoe, John	Mother Crocodile: An Uncle Amadou Tale from Sengal (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan Because Mother Crocodile tells stories of the past, the little crocodiles choose to believe she is crazy until almost too late they learn otherwise.
1981	Poitier, Sidney	This Life (Author) Interlibrary Loan Poitier's biography is one of bitter sweet humorous at times and seriously moraled at others. His life story rivals that of his films. His dirt poor up bringing with feelings of embarrassment, pride, and humility to his success story and subsequent feelings of strength, prideand yes humility is one that is under-rated and under-appreciated. It just the kind of story that the world needs now.
1981	Bryan, Ashley	Beat the Story Drum, Pum-Pum (Illustrator)



		J 398.209 BRY Five traditional Nigerian tales include "Hen and Frog," "Why Bush Cow and Elephant are Bad Friends," "The Husband Who Counted the Spoonfuls," "Why Frog and Snake Never Play Together," and "How Animals Got Their Tails."
1980	Myers, Walter Dean	The Young Landlords (Author) University Holdings Five devoted friends become landlords and try to make their Harlem neighborhood a better place to live.
1980	Byard, Carole	Cornrows (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan Explains how the hair style of cornrows, a symbol in Africa since ancient times, can today in this country symbolize the courage of outstanding Afro-Americans.
1979	Davis, Ossie	Escape to Freedom (Author) Interlibrary Loan Born a slave, young Frederick Douglass endures many years of cruelty before escaping to the North to claim his freedom.
1979	Feelings, Tom	Something On My Mind (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan Poems expressing the hopes, fears, joys, and sorrows of growing up.
1978	Greenfield, Eloise	Africa Dream (Author) E GREENFIELD A black child's dreams are filled with the images of the people and places of Africa.
1978	Byard, Carole	Africa Dream (Illustrator) E GREENFIELD A black child's dreams are filled with the images of the people and places of Africa.
1977	Haskins, James	The Story of Stevie Wonder (Author) Interlibrary Loan A biography of the blind composer, pianist, and singer who was a child prodigy and went on to win nine Grammy awards.
1976	Bailey, Pearl	Duey's Tale (Author) Interlibrary Loan A maple seedling becomes separated from his mother tree, makes friends with a bottle and a log, and searches for his own place in life.
1975	Robinson, Dorothy	The Legend of Africania (Author) Interlibrary Loan An allegorical tale of Africa's struggle against the ravishment of its people and country.
1974	Mathis, Sharon Bell	Ray Charles (Author) Interlibrary Loan Ray Charles and his soulful, passionate rhythm and melodies have been embraced around the globe for decades. Readers can follow Charles from his boyhood, when he lost his sight completely and learned to read and write music in Braille, until the age of 40, when he had become a world-renowned jazz and blues musician.



1974	Ford, George	Ray Charles (Illustrator) Interlibrary Loan Ray Charles and his soulful, passionate rhythm and melodies have been embraced around the globe for decades. Readers can follow Charles from his boyhood, when he lost his sight completely and learned to read and write music in Braille, until the age of 40, when he had become a world-renowned jazz and blues musician.
1973	Robinson, Jackie & Alfred Duckett	I Never Had it Made: The Autobiography of Jackie Robinson (Author) Interlibrary Loan Before Barry Bonds, before Reggie Jackson, before Hank Aaron, baseball's stars had one undeniable trait in common: they were all white. In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke that barrier, striking a crucial blow for racial equality and changing the world of sports forever. I Never Had It Made is Robinson's own candid, hard-hitting account of what it took to become the first black man in history to play in the major leagues.
1972	Fax, Elton C.	17 Black Artists (Author) Interlibrary Loan 17 Black artist that changed the course of art history.
1971	Rollins, Charlemae	Black Troubadour: Langston Hughes (Author) Interlibrary Loan James Mercer Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist. He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form jazz poetry. Hughes is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance.
1970	Patterson, Lillie	Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace (Author) Interlibrary Loan A biography of the minister, orator, and crusader for equal civil rights who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.